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Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1– 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method for updating services in a communication network containing multiple communication components which use and provide the services in the network, comprising:

  providing an identical software-controlled service with a plurality of the components;

  identifying at least some of the components providing the identical software-controlled service in the communication network;

  initiating a comparison of information by one of the components to compare release information of software controlling the service on each of the identified components when providing the identical software-controlled service; and
initiating a software update for one component when a comparison identifies that the release on said one component is different from the release on another of the components, wherein software with a more up-to-date release is sent from a third communication component to a component with an earlier release.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the update is performed by sending software from a component with a more up-to-date release relative to the release on the other of the components.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein comparison of release information is repeated at settable time intervals.

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16. (previously presented) The method Claim 12, wherein the network includes a packet-switching network.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the identical software-controlled service is selected from the group consisting of gateway functionality, voicemail server service, and address server service.

18. (currently amended) A method for providing services in a communication network, comprising:

        providing services in the communication network with each of multiple communication components, some of the components capable of providing an identical software-controlled service;

        enabling the identical software-controlled service in a first of the communication components; and

        activating, or updating software pertaining to, the identical service in a second of the communication components by downloading software pertaining to the identical service from the first communication component to the second communication component, wherein, wherein software pertaining to the service is sent from a third communication component to the second component.

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the service is provided by the first component.

20 - 22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first communication component initiates updates of software in the second component and in multiple other communication components.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first communication component in the communication network has been provided with a most up-to-date release for operation thereon and for downloading to other components.

25. (currently amended) A method for updating a service in a packet-switching communication network, comprising:

providing an identical software-controlled service on a first servent communication component and a second servent communication component, the components communicating peer-to-peer;

initiating a comparison by the first of the components to compare release information of the software controlling the service on at least the second component relative to software controlling the service on at least the first component; and if the releases are different,

identifying a more up-to-date release installed on one of the communication components; and

initiating a software update by downloading the more up-to-date release from said one of the components to another component for which release information has been compared, wherein wherein the step of initiating a software update by downloading the more up-to-date release from said one of the components to another component for which release information has been compared is effected by downloading software from a third servent communication component.

26 -28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the comparison of the release information is repeated at settable time intervals.